

Scientific Note

***LALAPA LUSA* PATE (HYMENOPTERA: TIPHIIDAE): NEW LOCALITIES AND NEW FLORAL ASSOCIATIONS IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST**

Lalapa lusa Pate (Hymenoptera: Tiphidae) is a distinctive wasp and the sole North American representative of the subfamily Anthoboscinae. As such, it has attracted the attention of aculeate Hymenoptera workers. *Lalapa lusa* is known from Idaho, Washington, Oregon and California (Krombein, K. V. 1979. Cat. Hymen. Amer. N of Mex., 2: 1268) where it occurs in arid and semiarid regions. Yet, it remains rare in collections and its biology is unknown.

The only previous Idaho record was a single female collected at Hollister, on 21 Aug 1930, which was designated as the holotype (Pate, V. S. L. 1947. J. N.Y. Entomol. Soc., 55: 115–145). There were two previously known collections of *L. lusa* from Washington: at Whiskey Dick Canyon, (M. Wasbauer, personal communication), and at Burke, which came from the M. T. James Collection, Department of Entomology, Washington State University.

We collected twelve additional specimens of *L. lusa* from Idaho and Washington (see records). Collections were made by sweeping low vegetation, the blossoms of rabbitbrush, *Chrysothamnus nauseosus* (Pallas) Britton (Asteraceae), and Canada thistle, *Cirsium arvense* (L.) Scopoli (Asteraceae). Specimens were also obtained from flowers of white sweet clover, *Melilotus alba* Desrousseaux (Fabaceae), and from yellow pan traps.

All four floral associations for *L. lusa* are new. *Lalapa lusa* was previously known wild buckwheat flowers, *Eriogonum* sp. (Polygonaceae), in Riverside Co., California, and feeding on the exudate of *Disholcaspis* sp. galls (Hymenoptera: Cynipidae) on oak, *Quercus* sp. (Fagaceae) (M. Wasbauer, personal communication).

Lalapa lusa are 6–7 mm long, mostly matte black with a red apex of the abdomen. The body is largely covered with long, white to tan setae that are particularly dense on the apical abdominal segments. These characters allow discrimination of *L. lusa* from most other tiphids in the field. This is important because it was found sharing inflorescences of Canada thistle and white sweet clover with a far more abundant *Paratiphia* sp. (prob. *neomexicana* Cameron) (Hymenoptera: Tiphidae). Under the microscope *Lalapa lusa* can be distinguished from other tiphids by examining the middle and hind tibiae which are flattened and bear several rows of short, thick, blunt, peg-like tubercles. The wasps are active from mid summer to early fall. Pan trap collections indicate that they spend a good deal of time flying low over the ground, as would be typical for a fossorial wasp. Thus, pan traps or flight intercept traps may be the best means of sampling for *L. lusa*. Subsequent observations in the area may then reveal biological secrets of another fascinating wasp and yield data important to our understanding of the Tiphioidea.

Records.—IDAHO. NEZ PERCE Co.: Hatwai Crk, 8 km (5 mi) E of Lewiston, 31 Jul 1984, W. J.

Turner, *Chrysothamnus nauseosus* (Pallas) Britton (Rabbitbrush, Asteraceae) (1); Hell's Gate State Park, 6.4 km (4 mi) E of Lewiston, 14 Jul 1982, T. D. Miller, *Cirsium arvense* (L.) Scopoli (Canada thistle, Asteraceae) (1); same loc., but 28 Jul 1982, J. B. Johnson, sweeping low vegetation, (1); same, but 14 Jul 1983, *Melilotus alba* Desrousseaux flowers (white sweet clover, Fabaceae) (2); same, but 22 Aug/6 Sep 1984, T. D. Miller, yellow pan trap (3); same, but 10/20 Aug 1985 (2). OWYHEE Co.: Murphy, 18 Jul 1982, J. B. Johnson, sweeping low vegetation (1). TWIN FALLS Co.: Hollister, 21 Aug 1930 (holotype). WASHINGTON. BENTON Co.: 8 km (5 mi) N of Richmond, 2 Oct 1982, J. B. Johnson, sweeping low vegetation (1). GRANT Co.: Burke, 9 Aug 1950, E. Klostermeyer, sweeping *Salsola kali* L. (Russian thistle, Chenopodiaceae). KITTITAS Co.: Whiskey Dick Cyn, 12.8 km (8 mi) N of Vantage.

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NEW RECORDS OF *TRICHOSTERESIS* FOERSTER FROM THE WESTERN UNITED STATES (HYMENOPTERA: MEGASPILIDAE)

Only two species of *Trichosteresis* Foerster are recorded from North America—*T. floridana* Ashmead from Jacksonville, Florida, and *T. vitripennis* Whittaker from Chilliwack, British Columbia (Muesebeck, C. F. W. 1979. Catalog of Hymenoptera of North America: 1191). Their hosts are not known, but European species have been reared from syrphid pupae. However Dessart (Dessart, P. 1974. Ann. Soc. Entomol. Fr., (N.S.) 10:395–448) believes *Trichosteresis* is monotypic, and all other species, are synonyms of *T. glabra* (Boheman).

In 1993, I found *T. vitripennis* in two widely-separated locations in California, suggesting that it occurs throughout the state. In April, I collected a female on the roof of my car that had just come through a car wash in the City of San Bernardino (see records). In June, I swept two females from the foliage of *Quercus agrifolia* Nee near the North Oakland Sports Center in Oakland. Determinations were made using a generic key to world Ceraphronoidea (Alekseyev, V. N. 1978. Entom. Rev., 57: 449–453) and the species description (Whittaker, O. 1930. Proc. Entom. Soc. Wash., 32: 72–73); no comparisons with the types were made. These discoveries caused me to reexamine the material in the Essig Museum, where I found four additional *Trichosteresis* specimens. One was a *T. vitripennis* female, which I had swept from *Medicago sativa* L. at U.C. Berkeley's experiment station in Albany. The other three were females that did not match the descriptions of either *T. floridana* or *T. vitripennis*; these were collected at the Needle Rocks at the north end of Pyramid Lake, Nevada (collector unknown).